

# ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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December 10, 1981

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ASARCO Lead Smelter, East Helena

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Montana Office 8MO

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Regional Administrator 8A

Per your request I am preparing briefing materials for you that will describe the Dallas lead problem and how East Helena compares to it.

We have contacted Dallas EPA and they have given us a verbal update of what is happening and are sending copies of reports which provide the detailed information.

Montana is working with us to develop a summary of air and soil data. This analysis will be completed by December 15, 1981. I will send you our review by the end of next week.

Briefly, our findings to date are:

1. Ambient air concentrations of lead exceed National Primary Standards in East Helena.
2. Soil concentrations of lead in places around the smelter exceed two percent (20,000 ppm). Those concentrations are similar to those found in Dallas.
3. High air and soil concentrations of lead are found in populated areas which border the smelter in East Helena.
4. In Dallas, high soil concentrations are also found in populated areas near the secondary lead smelter.
5. Dallas has two active secondary lead smelters and one inactive secondary lead smelter. East Helena has one primary lead smelter (ASARCO) and a company (CHEMET) which produces various products from ASARCO's by products.
6. We have no information on lead blood levels in East Helena.
7. Ambient air lead concentrations will be reduced in East Helena through the State's Implementation Plan (SIP). The plan will be completed next year.
8. East Helena's economy is based almost solely on ASARCO.

Our report next week will ~~concur~~ <sup>concurrence</sup> you with more details. If you have

SYMBOL	8MO	specific questions, please let me know.				
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